

COMMENTARY

MESSAGE FROM THE PAST CBS PRESIDENT

Several months ago I was asked by our new Editor to contribute the first of what is projected to be a continuing series of presidential "end-of-term notes" wherein the out-going president shares his or her views on the current status of the Society. Most members have regular contact with the Society only through Madroño and perhaps at the annual February meetings, and it was felt that many might appreciate a periodic status report.

Perhaps I can begin by saying that I have been on the Executive Council in one or another capacity almost continuously since 1973. As with most professional organizations, there have been many things that have remained unchanged: we still meet on third Thursdays in Berkeley with an invited speaker to stimulate discussion of one or another botanical subject; Herbert and Irene Baker are almost invariably in attendance, along with numerous other consistent supporters of the Society; and officers are still elected at the January meeting by a "white ballot".

Other things have undergone a bit of evolutionary change, however. As you are well aware, single member dues have increased from \$8.00 to \$18.00 over this period; the Executive Council has been expanded to include a graduate student representative; and the format of Madroño has developed several mutations, some more permanent than others.

One of these changes was the adoption in 1979 of a Society logo, the silhouette of a well-shaped *Arbutus menziesii* Pursh, selected from a number of designs submitted by the membership. However, I was amused recently when a former Council member, albeit a specialist in cryptogams, referred to "that oak tree on the back cover". Perhaps we need a new contest.

On a more serious note, if you have yet to sense it, your new Editor, Wayne Ferren, Jr., is developing a style that is transforming our journal from being simply an organ of communication for new botanical knowledge, into a more vital and effective vehicle of communication among the members. Be alert for new columns and formats and don't hesitate to communicate your reactions and/or suggestions, either directly to the Editor or to any member of the Executive Council.

As the preceding paragraph should indicate, I am generally pleased with current and future status of the California Botanical Society, even though there was a period in the mid-seventies when the financial picture looked rather bleak. In fact, at one point we were briefly dipping into the Endowment Funds to pay for printing several numbers of the journal. Two things that quite effectively corrected this were a series of increases in the membership fees and the very astute and vigorous investment policy established by Dr. John Thomas during his tenure as CBS Treasurer.

During the first half of this decade, interest rates were generally high, a condition that unfortunately no longer continues. As a result of this and the fact that there has been no dues increase for five years, it probably will be necessary for your Council to institute one for the next calendar year if we are to maintain our newly regained healthy financial condition. This also will allow our continued support of such worthwhile endeavors as the CBS Graduate Students Meetings; the conference on rare and endangered plants held in Sacramento this fall; and the very exciting Jepson Herbarium project to revise the *Manual of the Flora of California*, about which you will be hearing more in the near future.

My final observations have to do with changes I perceive occurring in the membership as represented by those who attend the monthly meetings and the annual banquet. I had earlier been privately concerned that the average age of CBS members had been climbing over the last several years, but recently I have noticed that more and more young new members are in evidence, perhaps at least partially a reflection of our fostering of the Graduate Student Meetings throughout the State.

And last but not least, I am pleased to note that there has been a very significant increase in active Society involvement by individuals representing the several public agencies that have been gaining long-due responsibilities for locating and maintaining populations of rare or threatened taxa on public lands. To me this is a good and healthful trend, both for the Society and for the native flora.—CHARLES F. QUIBELL, Department of Biology, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

EDITOR'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 33

This annual report provides an opportunity for the editor to communicate the status of manuscripts received for publication in MADROÑO and to comment on other aspects of the journal. Between 1 July 1985 and 30 June 1986, 90 manuscripts were received (41 articles, 10 notes, and 39 individual noteworthy collections). The current status of all unpublished manuscripts, including those received after 30 June 1986, is 23 in review (14, 1, 8), 18 in revision (16, 2, 0), six awaiting decision by the editors (6, 0, 0) and 12 accepted for publication (11, 0, 1). There are two unpublished book reviews and five in preparation. Volume 33 included 114 published manuscripts (27, 12, 75), 9 book reviews, and 7 editorials, commentaries, or letters to the editor. The period between submittal and publication has averaged about 1½ years.

This is the first entire volume completed during my editorship. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this exceptional regional journal. The success of the past year, however, would not have been possible without the help of the past Associate Editor, J. Robert Haller, who contributed to the first three issues, and the current Associate Editor, Barry D. Tanowitz, who contributed to the last two issues. Their dedication to the journal and their editorial and scientific assistance is appreciated greatly.

I also thank the members of the Board of Editors for their assistance with the review of manuscripts. A few, such as Bill Critchfield and Frank Vasek, reviewed more than their share of the burden and I extend special thanks to them. Of particular note is Steven Timbrook, who replaced Barry Tanowitz when Barry assumed the position of Associate Editor. Steven compiled the Contents and Index to Volume 33, an achievement all readers of MADROÑO will appreciate. Thanks Steve! Additionally, a total of 81 reviewers assisted with at least one manuscript review each for papers published in Volume 33; many commented on several different papers. This unsung burden is a critical aspect of any journal and their role here is appreciated deeply. The organization, readability, and style of all papers reflect ideas provided by our reviewers and the general high quality of papers in MADROÑO can be attributed in part to their sincere efforts. I look forward to future assistance by them and others.

Most important is the contribution by our authors. The strength of MADROÑO depends on the quality and quantity of manuscripts. A scan of this year's papers reveals the great breadth of investigations by members of the California Botanical Society, which in Volume 33 have included contributions in systematics, nomenclature, floristics, phytogeography, ecology, paleobotany, cytology, phenology, plant/animal interactions, hybridization, and morphology. These papers also covered many regions of western North America, including Mexico, and concerned various plant groups such as bryophytes, lichens, gymnosperms, and angiosperms. Additionally, editorials, commentaries, announcements, and letters to the editor have sparked debate, created other interactions among members of the Society, and demonstrated even further the important vehicle of communication that MADROÑO continues to be. The editors welcome all contributions and suggestions from authors and other members to help us maintain or improve the status of MADROÑO as an important botanical journal.—W.R.F. 14 Oct. 1986.